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WORKING FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

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He who blazes the way in any field of pioneer work must suffer suspicion, criticism and ridicule on the altar of public opinion which always contests the acceptance of new ideas until it is proved that the principles thus enunciated are true. Yet public opinion serves the very necessary purpose of staying the hand of the adventurer and dreamer who would selfishly exploit ideas and schemes that give no hope of ultimate usefulness. However, from the earliest time the line of duty in these matters has been so clear that few men, who have had an abiding faith in the genuine good that would ultimately come to humanity, have hesitated to render the service. The individual fall of a few men is of no consequence when compared with the great benefit accruing to society from action based upon truly scientific principles. Those of us here venturing to lend our endorsement to certain principles of pioneer labor in the field of conservation—the greatest of all its divisions, that of defective or sub-normal man—do so in all modesty, recognizing that any or all the truth and worth of our efforts is the result of our opportunity of observation and the evolution and enlargement of the thoughts of other and abler men.

So much has been written of the essential principles of the great work of reclaiming the criminal, or law violator, that it is difficult to separate the new from the old. Our grateful nation would be impoverished indeed should it attempt fully to repay in love and gratitude such noble spirits as Brockway, Henderson, McClaughry, Butler and the late lamented Dr. Wines, and the hosts of others who have given so abundantly and unselfishly of their intellects and energies.

Every generation and every epoch in history has brought advancement in all lines of human good, and our people and our time have not been weighed in the balance and found wanting. We have given to posterity the indeterminate sentence and parole laws, and their author has lived to see them universally accepted. However, there is yet so much to be done, and the time in which to do it

so short that we should not even hesitate, much less stop. Let us here and now resolve to search out new and additional truths and, if needs be, pay the price of self-sacrifice in order to establish them on the pedestal of man's eternal good.

Is crime a disease? Not exactly; no. May it not better be regarded as an evidence of defective or undeveloped brain? Through medical science the world learned that insanity is a physical and not a spiritual ill, and kindness and scientific treatment supplanted harshness and unscientific methods. So also, crime is a problem for the neurologist and the psychologist, and the field of research is the brain and the mind. We know that certain divisions of the brain preside over intellect—volition, thought, memory—and another division over muscular co-ordination, and still another over the vital centers. Whether the mind or intellect is the brain acting, or whether the mind acts through the brain, it would seem that the process is inseparable from the organ. We should recognize that crime, like disease, has natural causes, and before we can intelligently treat the offender we must know his genesis. We account for some deformities by reason of an inflammatory interference with certain brain cells: we also have the precocious child as a result of abnormal, or early, excessive development of certain brain cells. May not science yet disclose that crime is but the natural result of a defective or undeveloped brain? Who will undertake to point out a sharp line of demarcation between the normal and abnormal, or tell where sanity leaves off and insanity begins? Let him who can arbitrarily and with certainty fix these lines, point out to us the fundamentals of crime. Who can tell what the secret chambers of science may yet have in store for us? We have the curable and the incurable diseases. There is such an apparent intimate relation between crime and defect that we are not surprised that the field has for a long time been attractive to many scientists, such as Lombroso, who considers epilepsy as forming, with atavism, the sub-stratum upon which is based the criminal world.

Let us venture a little further into the speculative. If the mind is not the brain acting, but is rather to be considered synonymous with the spiritual part of man, where is its abiding place in cases of insanity or imbecility? If conscience is the moral attribute of mind that sits in judgment on and approves or disapproves our actions, what are its limitations—its influence over physical brain function?

After all, it is the integrity of the mind that determines the integrity of the life. Let us return to the material and consider some of the causes of crime in order that we may more intelligently individualize the treatment rather than the punishment of the criminal. For the purposes under consideration we may classify most cases under two general heads, "heredity" and "environment." Practically all causative influences may be properly considered under one or the other. The whole problem has been clouded with innumerable theories. As Dr. Healy so well says in a splendid article in the *July Review*: "It is even more important to note that many of the most competent students, especially those who have dealt largely with life rather than books, feel that the matter is anything but closed; the problem anything but solved." Again the same writer strikes an important key-note when he says: "Emerging as students from the conglomerate material offered us by many authors, and attempting a survey of the field with fair-minded shrewdness, where does it seem we can turn for relief from the futility of our failures? One sees certainly no immediate help from any attempt at theorizing." He is quite right. We must approach this question in the same sane and practical way as any other physical and scientific problem. Let us view the actions of the offender as the natural outgrowth of an undeveloped or abnormal central nervous system. Medical and psychological science must earnestly and intelligently work out scientific individualization and correct classification, after having determined as nearly as possible the physical and intellectual strength of the criminal.

We cannot hope to control and improve the offender unless we know him, and to know him we must study him—his conduct, his physical and mental make-up, the general ensemble of his qualities. Where can this best be done? First in the larger field of personal contact and individual handling, and second, in the psychological and pathological laboratory. The more carefully we study him the more convinced are we that we are dealing with a defective or undeveloped, and possibly undevelopable, brain. In many cases there has been a disturbance or complete arrest of development, accounting for the fact that probably one-third of those entering a reformatory, while physically ranging in ages from sixteen to thirty years, are mentally under twelve years of age. This of itself furnishes ample evidence of the necessity for a longer period of institutional

treatment than is too often understood or practiced. Essential features of any method of treatment must be firmness, unquestioned justice, patience and kindly interest. This thought is well expressed by Dr. Henderson in his summary of the discussions of the congress at Washington, in 1910. To return the criminal to organized society before he is fitted to meet its requirements is to weaken society's confidence in our methods of treatment, and to make of the offender a recidivist. When we learn to analyze scientifically the irregularities of the defective intellect, the matter of employment and discipline will both become easier. The problem is as endless as the human race, and the matter as inexhaustible as nature itself.

It is important that we observe the same diligence in the restriction of the spread of crime as we do in the prevention of the spread of contagious disease. In considering the preventive or restrictive measures let us first think of more thoroughly safeguarding our marriage laws; and, second, the humane prevention of procreation by the positively defective and criminal type, the feasibility of which has been so well demonstrated by Dr. Sharp. It is impossible to read the findings of Lombroso and others on heredity and not appreciate the necessity for positive control of such procreation. The moral and intellectual constitution must be rebuilt. The criminal's physical condition must also be improved and his somatic defects corrected as far as possible. The wonderful good accruing from the gymnasium, the drill room and other kinds of physical exercise does not stop with the bodily improvement, but the stimulation to the brain and mind gives a decided improvement in mental acumen.

In securing control and obedience of the prisoner we must convince him that we are not only just with him, but that we are actually interested in him. It must be borne in mind also that by reason of his defect he does not have a normal view of things. This does not mean that he must not be made to conform to rules. The very nature of his life as a member of society and his failure to respect the regulations of society, one of which was his probable failure to support those having a natural and legal right to look to him, make it incumbent upon the state to take custodial care of him and bring about compulsory support. In order to do this the state assumes the obligation to afford him the necessary opportunity. To do this he should be given his entire earnings over and above the cost of raw material entering into the product he creates. It is useless to advo-

cate that his maintenance should first be deducted, for no reformatory, attempting to carry out the purpose for which it was created, can ever hope to be self-sustaining. When the state takes into custody and locks up one of its derelicts and affords society protection against his offenses, society has gotten all to which it is entitled and has no right to appropriate the prisoner's earnings, thus pauperizing his family, which is one of the causes of crime.

In this connection it is interesting to consider the results of Lombroso's investigations in the matter of employment, where he shows the relative increase of crime and recidivism as we leave agriculture and replace it with the manufacturing industries, the agricultural employment having the lowest percentage of crime. From the foregoing it seems that the importance of training prisoners in agriculture—intensive farming—by the best instructor to be furnished by some such great school as Purdue University, can not be over-estimated. This instruction should be given on as extensive a scale as is consistent with the welfare of the inmates and the interests of the state. The unsatisfactory employment of prisoners, along with other features of disappointment in the general treatment of penal and reformatory problems, has resulted in a state of uncertainty and unrest, causing us to seek other and newer methods, and the most promising outlook is the truly scientific field.

The State of Indiana is fortunate in having a governor, and the Indiana Reformatory a board of trustees, who have given much thought and consideration to the advancement of such sensible and practicable things that tend to the general uplift and improvement of the inmates. Recognizing that the work of a reformatory is necessarily along scientific and educational lines, the Indiana Reformatory has secured one of our distinguished educators to become associated with us in our work here. He is a gentleman who has for some years been at the head of the department of education and psychology in Depauw University, this state, and the entering into this work by such men as he augurs much for the advancement of the work.

The startling advance made in the last half century in the general world of science, by the exact methods of laboratory investigation, has suggested the feasibility of their application to the problems of penal science. The psychological laboratory is no longer an experiment. The work done by Münsterburg, of Harvard University, and by others in the field proves conclusively the potency of this method

in determining mental qualities, in detecting psychic defects, and in estimating the general state of the central nervous system. Incredible as it may appear, there is no penal or reformatory institution for the care of males where psychological methods formulated on scientific laboratory experiments are in use, or even where a comprehensive scheme of psychic findings has any place in the general conduct of the management of criminals. Despite the remarkable advance along the whole range of scientific and cultural activities the idea of punishment for crime is in essence singularly archaic, harking back to the old punitive system of the Mosaic law. True, the reformatory idea has been extant for some years and much good has been accomplished, but, in the light of modern scientific investigation, even greater advancement is to be expected.

We would not have maudlin sentiment usurp the place of even strabismic justice, but would approach the subject from the standpoint of broad humanism and treat it as a problem of physical science. As scientific problems can be elucidated only by scientific methods, we are now on the threshold of instituting in the Indiana Reformatory the first effort in the methods suggested. We feel fully the immensity of the undertaking. We are leaving the familiar ground, strewn as it is with many failures and disappointments, and, guided by the refulgent star of science, we dare to follow her into the unknown, confident in her unerring instinct to guide us to our goal, certain that she alone can now lead us aright.